

A Promise Kept

Air Assault in Germany

ROMEX '05

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

November 2005
www.soldiersmagazine.com

Soldiers

From Specialist to NCO

SGT Dave Sokorai Lives the Army Values

New Hot Topics
PAGE 48



Cover Story — Page 8
SGT Dave Sokorai embodies
the Army Values.
— Photo by Beth Reece

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Soldiers ■ November 2005 ■ Vol

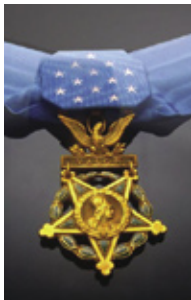


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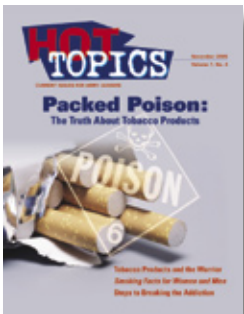
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This issue of **Soldiers** magazine offers two very different articles on the subject of Army Values. One introduces former CPL Tibor Rubin, a veteran of the Korean War who recently received the Medal of Honor. The second is about SGT Dave Sokorai, a Soldier now serving in Iraq.

Rubin, a Hungarian Jew who survived a Nazi concentration camp, joined the U.S. Army after the war as a way to honor the Soldiers who liberated him. Not yet a U.S. citizen when the Korean War started, he could have avoided combat but instead chose to stay with his unit. Soon facing North Korean and communist Chinese troops, he fought heroically to give his unit time to regroup. Cap-



tured by the Chinese and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, he cared for and encouraged his fellow Soldiers when it seemed that all hope was lost.

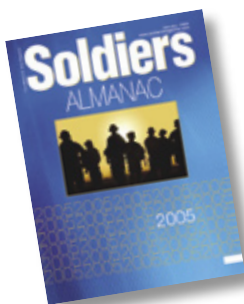
Earlier this year we asked you, our readers, to nominate your own Soldiers' Soldier, someone who lived the Army Values. The nomination of SGT Sokorai came from a Pennsylvania National Guard Soldier who served with Sokorai in Bosnia. Now on active duty with the 18th Field Artillery

Brigade, Sokorai was compelled to join the Army out of a sense of duty heightened by the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when he was a New York City policeman. His is indeed a story of honor and selfless service.

Gil High
Gil High
Editor in Chief

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Soldiers

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Reservists and JROTC

THE August Sharpshooters article focusing on the JROTC program at Richmond High School did not speak to the way JROTC excludes retired Army Reservists.

JROTC excludes Reservists because they do not have the necessary 20 years of active service. This policy should be re-examined, since it cuts greatly into the pool of Soldiers who are willing to give this worthy program a look. Why not change the rules to allow JROTC participation by Reservists who have done 10 years of active duty and have an advanced degree?

LTC Robert G. Smith
via e-mail

EIB vs. CIB, Continued

AS a long-retired soldier, I continue to enjoy reading **Soldiers**. It's funny, but topics that were current back in my day are still hot topics today.

One that keeps popping up is the value of the Combat Infantry Badge versus the Expert Infantry Badge. I have both, so I feel qualified to weigh in on this subject.

I am very proud of both these awards — I earned my CIB in Vietnam and my EIB in Germany. The criteria for the awards are totally different, as they should be, but wearers should be proud to wear either one.

I have both displayed in my "I was there" medal case and feel a sense of pride and accomplishment each time I look at them. They are both equally important to me — for different reasons.

CPT Randall B. Meyer (Ret.)
Abingdon, Md.

I WAS 11B for five years, and most of my comrades and I were clear on the EIB vs. CIB issue. We all agreed that any idiot can get shot at, but there's a lot more involved in earning the EIB.

My opinion hasn't changed much, except in one aspect. It all depends on the situation surrounding how you got

your CIB. If you have both awards, and you can look at yourself in the mirror in the morning with respect, then wear your CIB proudly.

As for the EIB being awarded for "doing the tough job of combat," there are a lot of MOSs "doing the job" and they don't get the CIB. I was in Iraq, and had I received a CIB, my EIB would stay put.

SGT Scott A. Smejkal
via e-mail

Not Italy

I JUST browsed through the August issue and noticed an error in the "On Point" section.

The photo from Sgt. Dunaway, USAF, shows some 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers hooked up and waiting to exit a C-17 Globemaster. The caption reads that they are awaiting to jump into Sicily drop zone. The photograph is labeled "Italy," but Sicily drop zone is actually at Fort Bragg, N.C.

CPT Michael R. Dean
via e-mail

WE have to hang our heads over this one, considering that a couple of us have visited both the drop zone and the country and should know the difference.

Thumbs Up

IN the August issue SPC Jose Garcia asked whether the "thumbs up sign," which he saw being given by an Iraqi boy in the May issue, was considered good or bad in Muslim countries.

While I was in Iraq I, too, heard some Soldiers saying that they'd heard it was a negative gesture to Muslims, so I asked one of our local interpreters to be sure. He said it means the same to them as to us — "yeah," "go for it," "all OK," etc. And he said that since U.S. Soldiers use it a lot, the Iraqi children are quick to use it back.

I have been bouncing around the Middle East since 2001 and spent time in North Africa, and I had never encountered a problem with the "thumbs up."

Perhaps whoever started this rumor was confusing Iraq with Australia, where I heard it does mean something negative.

MAJ Karson Snyder
via e-mail

Marghella — The Last Word

THIS is in response to all the letters written about the opinion originally expressed by SGT Carla Marghella in her July letter to the editor.

First, someone staring at you does not constitute sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Someone looking at you is not cause for a complaint. Just because a group of white soldiers stare at me, for example, doesn't make them racists. If being stared at makes you feel uncomfortable, then whether you're male or female you should say something.

Ask the individuals what they are staring at. Once you have an answer, then you will know how to deal with the issue. But you'll never know unless you first ask.

No NCO should be afraid to speak to Soldiers and/or ask a question. If you're walking around with your head down or are afraid to look Soldiers, male or female, in the face, then you need to look within.

SFC Jerome Dingle
via e-mail

Soldiers values your opinion

To comment, keep your remarks to under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

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Call to Duty

A Promise Kept

Story by Beth Reece

TIBOR “Ted” Rubin knows what it’s like to slowly starve to death, how lice itch when crawling over skin and how giving up on life can seem easier than fighting for it.

Nazi guards made sure Rubin understood despair at the age of 13. A Hungarian Jew, he was forced into the Mauthausen Concentration Camp toward the end of World War II. But Rubin defied odds: He survived. After the war he moved to New York, and eventually joined

the same Army that liberated him from hell on earth.

From the horror of the Holocaust arose a bravery that few can match. Rubin went on to fight in the Korean War and was taken prisoner by the Chinese communists. This time, he breathed life into his fellow captives, who were dying at the rate of 40 a day in the winter of 1950-1951.

“He saved a lot of GI’s lives. He gave them the courage to go on living when a lot of guys didn’t make it,” said SGT Leo Cormier, a fellow POW. “He saved my life when I could have laid in a ditch and died — I was nothing but flesh and bones.”

Rubin was nominated for the Medal of Honor four times by grateful comrades. A medal he might otherwise have received at age 23 was draped over his neck by President George W. Bush in a White House ceremony Sept. 23.

While most military decorations are awarded for a single act, Rubin’s was earned by courage that withstood battle on the front lines, and then thrived in the face of death for two and a half years.

“People ask, ‘How the hell did you get through all that?’” said Rubin, now 76. “I can’t answer, but I figured whatever I did, I was never going to make it out alive.”

Valor

At the end of October 1950, thousands of Chinese troops were laying in wait. Masters of camouflage, they blended into the brush and burned fires to produce smoke to mask their movements. When Soldiers of the 8th Cavalry Regiment were stretched before them like sitting ducks, the Chinese swarmed in.

“The whole mountain let loose,” said Rubin, who was then a corporal serving in the 8th Cav.’s 3rd Battalion.

◀ Tibor Rubin today, age 76, near his home in California.



Beth Reece



On Oct. 30 the 3rd Bn.'s firepower dwindled to a single machine gun, which three Soldiers had already died manning. By the time Rubin stepped up to fire, most of his fellow Soldiers felt doomed in the confusion of battle.

"Nobody wanted to take over, but somebody had to. We didn't have anything else left to fight with," he said.

Rubin's buddies say he was a hero, selflessly defending his unit against thousands of Chinese troops.

Battle raged for three days around Unsan, then the Chinese pushed the Soldiers south. Those who survived retreated with little or no ammunition and hundreds of wounded. More than 1,000 men of the 8th Cav. were listed as missing in action after the battle, but some returned to friendly lines or were rescued by tank patrols in the following weeks.

Earlier in the war, as the 8th Cav. moved toward the Pusan Perimeter, Rubin kept to the rear to ward off North Koreans nipping at his battalion's heels. At 4 a.m., while defending a hill on his own, Rubin heard gunfire from what sounded like hundreds of enemy troops.

"I figured I was a goner. But I ran from one foxhole to the next, throwing hand grenades so the North Koreans would think they were fighting more than one person,"



▲ CPL Tibor Rubin as a young Soldier.

he said. "I couldn't think straight — in a situation like that, you become hysterical trying to save your life."

"He tied up the enemy forces, allowing the safe withdrawal of Allied troops and equipment on the Taegu-Pusan road. The enemy suffered, not only tremendous casualties ... but it slowed the North Korean invading momentum along that route, saving countless American lives and giving the 8th Cav. precious time to regroup to the south," wrote CPL Leonard Hamm in his nomination of Rubin for the MOH.

And when Hamm himself later lay fallen, it was Rubin who fought to go back for him when the first



For more information on the Medal of Honor, visit www.army.mil/medalofhonor/rubin



▲ Former SGT Richard A. Whalen was taken to “Death Valley” along with Rubin.

sergeant issued orders to leave him behind.

“But we didn’t know if he was dead,” Rubin said. “All I could think about was that somebody back home was waiting for him to return.”

Rubin was pinned down by snipers and forced to low-crawl for several hundred yards when rescuing Hamm, whose body was so loaded with shrapnel that he could hardly lift a limb.

“Rubin not only saved my life by carrying me to safety; he kept the North Korean snipers off our butts,” said Hamm.

A Prisoner Again

When battle ended in Unsan, hundreds of Soldiers were taken prisoner by the Chinese. They were forced to march to a camp known today as “Death Valley,” ill-dressed for winter’s freezing temperatures, exhausted and hungry. Many of them grew sick with dysentery, pneumonia or hepatitis. Others died.

“It was so cold that nobody wanted to move, and the food we got was barely enough to keep us alive,” said former SGT Richard A. Whalen. “But Rubin was a tremendous asset to us, keeping our spirits up when no one felt good.”

Years in a Nazi concentration camp had taught

Rubin ways of survival that most humans never need know. He knew how to make soup out of grass, what weeds had medicinal qualities and that the human body can sometimes prevail if a person’s mind is in the right place.

What his comrades needed, Rubin knew, was hope — hope to keep them moving and hope to make them fight for their lives.

“Some of them gave up, and some of them prayed to be taken,” Rubin remembers. He held pep talks, reminding the Soldiers of the families awaiting their safe return home. He stole food for them to eat, nagged them to “debug” themselves of the relentless lice and even nursed them through sickness.

“He’d go out of his way to do favors to help us survive,” said Cormier. “I once saw him spend the whole night picking lice off a guy who didn’t have the strength to lift his head. What man would do that? I’d have told him to go down and soak in the cold water so the lice would all fall off. But Ted did things for his fellow men that made him a hero in my book.”

Rubin thought the best way to overpower his captors was by hitting them where it hurt most — their bellies.

“They didn’t have much more food to eat than we did,” Rubin said. “One potato would have been worth a million dollars if any of us had had it to give.”

So when night fell he stole corn, millet and barley. And when the Chinese planted a “victory” garden, he snuck past armed guards to reap the harvest, stuffing his pants full of radishes, green onions and cucumbers.

“The Chinese would’ve cut Ted’s throat if they’d caught him stealing. It still amazes me that they never did catch him,” said Cormier. “What he did to help us could have meant the sacrifice of his own life.”

Rubin and Cormier became fast friends as POWs. They were assigned as “bunkmates,” although mud floors served as beds for the hundreds of men confined together in small rooms. When dysentery seized Cormier’s body, Rubin stayed at his side and nursed him.

Fellow prisoners credit Rubin with saving the lives of more than 40 Soldiers during his imprisonment at “Death Valley” and later at Camp 5 in Pyoktong. About



"The real heroes are those who never came home. I was just lucky. This Medal of Honor belongs to all prisoners of war, to all the heroes who died fighting in those wars."

1,600 U.S. Soldiers died in Camp 5 in early 1951.

Rubin was repatriated under "Operation Little Switch," the initial exchange of sick and wounded prisoners from April 20 to May 3, 1953.

A Hero is Born

Life as a prisoner under the Nazis and the Chinese are incomparable for Rubin. Of his Chinese captors, Rubin says only that they were "human" and somewhat lenient.

Of the Nazis, Rubin remains baffled by their capacity to kill. He was just a boy when he lost his parents and two little sisters to the Nazi's brutality.

"In Mauthausen, they told us right away, 'You Jews, none of you will ever make it out of here alive'," Rubin remembers. "Every day so many people were killed. Bodies piled up God knows how high. We had nothing to look forward to but dying. It was a most terrible thing, like a horror movie."

American Soldiers swept into the camp on May 5, 1945, to liberate the prisoners. It is still a miraculous day for Rubin, indelibly imprinted in his heart.

"The American Soldiers had great compassion for us. Even though we were filthy, we stunk and had diseases, they picked us up and brought us back to life."

Rubin made a vow that day that he's fulfilled ten times over.

"I made a promise that I would go to the United States and join the Army to express my thanks," said Rubin.

Three years later he arrived in New York. Two years after that he passed the English language test — after two attempts and with "more than a little help," he said — and joined the Army. He was shipped to the 29th Infantry Regiment in Okinawa. When the Korean War broke out, Rubin was summoned by his company commander.

"The 29th Inf. Regt. is mobilizing. You are not a U.S. citizen so we can't take you — a lot of us are going to get killed. We'll send you to Japan or Germany," Rubin remembers being told.

"But I could not just leave my unit for some 'safe' zone," Rubin said. "I was with these guys in basic training. Even though I wasn't a citizen yet, America was my country."

Rubin got what he wanted and headed for Korea — to the good fortune of many Soldiers who served alongside him.

"I'm beholden to him," said Cormier, who watched Rubin bend over backwards for his brothers in arms.

Luck was also on Whalen's side, because he was herded to "Death Valley" alongside Rubin.

"I have to say this was the luckiest break of my life because he and I went up that valley together, and we were assigned to the same house," Whalen said. "I wouldn't be here today without him."

The same could be said of former CPL James E. Bourgeois, for whom Rubin cleaned wounds and bandages with boiled snow.

"At one time my wounds got so infected he put maggots in them to prevent gangrene from setting in. This, I am sure, not only saved my left arm — which I have full use of today — but also my life," Bourgeois said.

When being admired for his courage, Rubin is quick



Beth Reece

▲ Former SGT Leo Cormier became lifelong friends with Rubin after their shared POW experience.

to wave off praise. His acts had more to do with his vow to serve than with heroism, he said.

"The real heroes are those who never came home. I was just lucky," Rubin said. "This Medal of Honor belongs to all prisoners of war, to all the heroes who died fighting in those wars."

And Rubin can't forget the Jews who died in vain, or the American Soldiers who made survivors of the rest. To them, he dedicated the best years of his life, becoming an American war hero — a Soldier of uncommon bravery. 🇺🇸

A Soldiers' Soldier

Story by Beth Reece

Early this year we asked for your help finding our Soldiers' Soldier. We asked you to send us the names of Soldiers you know and work with who live by the Army values, and who are proud of what they do for America. Nominations came in for Soldiers stationed throughout the world — some doing dangerous jobs in Iraq and Afghanistan, others pulling long hours here at home.

The nomination of SGT Dave Sokorai came to us from SPC Tim O'Toole, a Pennsylvania National Guard member who served in Bosnia with Sokorai in 2002-2003. Sokorai's story is one of patriotism, sacrifice and a great desire to serve. We hope you agree.

COP chases and drug deals were so regular that a peaceful night made Dave Sokorai antsy.

"He'd get fidgety and start shuffling papers or switching radio stations. Then suddenly he'd say there was something he really needed to check on. Dave cared about the job so much that he always had to be out there working it," said patrol officer Jessie Merrill, who'd talk shop with Sokorai while pulling the night shift for the Lower Merian, Pa., Police Department in 2004.

Sokorai loved being a cop. It was in his blood, having a grandfather, a slew of uncles and countless cousins who'd all served as officers of the law.

But it wasn't enough, and not one friend or family member was stunned when Sokorai traded his police badge for a maroon beret.

"He knew the Army would be tough on his marriage and that he was giving up a career that paid a great deal of

money. But the country needed Soldiers and Dave heard the call," Merrill said.

Much of Sokorai's life has been driven by the desire to serve. It led him to the 82nd Airborne Division soon after high school, inspired him to leave the Army and become a police officer, spurred him to join the Pennsylvania National Guard and then drew him back to full-time military service.

Today he wears sergeant stripes and is serving in Iraq with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C.

"He's the kind of Soldier who, if it wasn't for his family, he'd do it for free," said SFC Don Ferguson, 18th FA Bde. first sergeant.

First a Soldier

Sokorai grew up fascinated by a grandfather he never knew, a man who served in the airborne infantry during the Second World War and died in a car accident shortly afterward.

"Dave would spend hours talking with Grandma about what my dad



▲ Sokorai began his police career with the NYPD. It was a job that was in his blood, having had a grandfather, uncles and cousins who also were police officers.



▲ In Iraq, Sokorai is a driver for the commander and command sergeant major of the 18th Field Artillery Brigade.



did in the Army, where he jumped and where he served,” said Sokorai’s mom, Carol. “And for years, you couldn’t find Dave without a G.I. Joe in his hands.”

An Army recruiter sporting a high-and-tight took the mystery out of the military when pitching Army life to Sokorai’s senior class in 1993.

“I still remember sitting in the front row thinking, ‘That’s what I want to be,’” Sokorai said. As fellow seniors

sheepishly filtered out of the auditorium following the presentation, Sokorai lingered behind to report that he was ready to join.

Within days Sokorai took the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test, and within weeks he gave himself to the infantry by way of the Delayed Entry Program. Out of more than 1,000 graduates, he was one of just two in his class to enlist in the military.

“When the recruiter drove him away for basic training, Dave looked to me like he was still 12 years old,” Carol said. “At the time we thought he could’ve done things differently, but we were still very proud of him.”

Sokorai joined the 1st Battalion, 325th Inf. Regt., at Fort Bragg. He

◀ Sokorai twice answered the call to service — once after high school graduation, and again in 2005 because he felt the need to participate in the war on terror.

served there as an automatic rifleman, radioman and battalion staff driver.

Four months before the end of his three-year enlistment, Sokorai met Kim Baxendale while home on leave in Philadelphia. Shy, pretty, Catholic, penny-wise and future-minded, she was the girl of his dreams and Kim knew after a single date that he was the man she’d marry.

Every four-day pass Sokorai could get, he spent wooing Kim. Within months they talked about marriage.

“It was tough. She was in school and I was spending weeks at a time in the field. Knowing that it would be a tough life for us if I stayed in the Army, Kim asked if there was anything I’d consider doing outside of the military,” Sokorai said.

In the back of his mind was the urge to try police work, so in 1997 Sokorai declined re-enlistment and took a law-enforcement entry exam. When the New York Police Department made the first job offer, Sokorai took a chance, figuring that if he could work on the NYPD, he could work anywhere.

Life as a Cop

Police duty was 98 percent routine and two percent fear for Sokorai. It could go from good to bad in seconds, and ranged between hot pursuits and cozying up to locals who might one day be good sources.

“Dave really had a way of talking with people. He’d meet a man once, and next time he saw him remember his name and know about his family. It made people feel like they could trust Dave — and trust the police — because he took the time to get to know them,” said Merrill.

Duty sometimes called Sokorai to scenes not normally within the realm of

▶ Sokorai grew up in a Philadelphia, Pa., row house, surrounded by relatives and friends.



Sokorai submitted his resignation and spent his final days with the NYPD pulling security near the World Trade Center.

the law. He'd arrive at homes to discover the occupants had called because of a flooded basement or a bat in the attic.

"But the only tools I had were a gun and pepper spray," Sokorai joked, finding humor in people's absolute trust in the police to expel danger.

"Occasionally we'd get calls from parents whose kids wouldn't do their homework or wouldn't eat their dinner. It's kind of funny now, but it was frustrating when there were bigger issues to take care of," he added.

Despite the hazardous duty and high cost of living, Sokorai was pulling only \$31,000 a year.

"New York City is a tough place to live if you're not a native. Rents are astronomical, taxes are crazy and car insurance is high," he said.

Not to mention the fact that he and Kim were still apart, with her back in Philadelphia toiling at a masters degree in microbiology.

Sokorai submitted his resignation and spent his final days with the NYPD pulling security near the World Trade Center. When terrorists rammed passenger jets into the twin towers Sept. 11, 2001, Sokorai was still on the NYPD's payroll, but in Philadelphia finalizing wedding plans and preparing for a transfer to the Lower Merian Police Department.

"I'll never forget that day," Carol said. "Dave called me to say he should've been in New York helping, not here in Philadelphia. I was so worried about what he was going to do."

When Sokorai offered to rush into

Beth Reece (and center photo at left)



► Sokorai transferred from the New York City Police Department to the Lower Merian PD in 2001. He worked there until rejoining the Army in 2005.

the city, department officials told him he'd never make it through the tunnels. Having joined the Pennsylvania Guard in 1999, he also called his unit to see if Soldiers were being alerted. "Hold fast, we'll let you know," leaders told him.

"But nobody knew what was going on. Phone lines were blocked and everyone wanted to do something, anything. That day affected everyone in the country," Sokorai said in an interview that occurred the same morning terrorists set aflame underground trains and a double-decker bus in London.

The guilt of not being with his fellow officers that day turned into a hunger that took years to satisfy. While working with the Lower Merian Police, Sokorai watched Soldiers deploy to



Beth Reese

Afghanistan, and later to Iraq.

On slow nights, he'd listen to the news in his cruiser.

"I'd hear about a Soldier being killed, or about the Army's recruiting problem. I felt like I should've been doing my part, like I was needed," he said.

"But we all thought he was doing

his share here at home as a police officer," added Kim.

At War

In Iraq, Sokorai serves on the 18th FA Bde.'s Personal Security Detachment, which shadows the command's sergeant major, CSM Larry Watson, and commander, COL Henry S. Larson.

Sokorai helps assure the two leaders' safety so they're free to focus solely on their jobs. The protection mission can entail setting up roadblocks, clearing buildings or responding to enemy fire.

Though Sokorai is one of the PSD's lowest-ranking Soldiers, SFC William McGovern said he's one of the sharpest.

"His infantry background really adds to the team, and that's why he was in charge of a lot of the team's training. He's an expert at cover and fire, weapons proficiency, combat lifesaving and first-responder techniques," McGovern said. "People tend to solicit his advice."

Sokorai is also Watson and Larson's downrange driver. Wherever the two go — even through rough terrain and enemy fire — Sokorai chauffeurs them in an up-armored Humvee.

"Adding all that armor to a Humvee makes it quite different from the regular vehicle. It's heavier and needs to be handled with more caution," he



Beth Reese

◄ In Iraq, Sokorai serves with the 18th FA Bde.'s Personal Security Detachment. Having an infantry background, he was in charge of much of the team's pre-deployment training.

► Sokorai flips through an album of family photos. He left the Army in 1997 in order to attain a more stable lifestyle for he and his wife, Kim.

said, having driven one in a 2002-2003 deployment to Bosnia with the Pennsylvania Guard's 104th Cavalry Regt.

Watson, who is known throughout the unit for his strict leadership and steep expectations, handpicked Sokorai based on his experience as both an infantryman and a police officer.

"We usually spend the first years of a Soldier's life unscrewing his head and pouring in Army values. Sometimes the lid doesn't get put back on right, or things come out and you have to keep putting them back in," Watson said. "But with a Soldier like Sokorai, everything is there and the lid is already tight. He's the epitome of what we'd like every Soldier to be."

His peers agree.

"When I see him in action I think, 'that's what a good Soldier is, that's what I need to become,'" said PFC Tanaja Gravina, clerk for the brigade's command group.

Sokorai was promoted into the non-commissioned officer corps Aug. 1, a day many of his leaders say came later than deserved. "I'd promote him to E-6 tomorrow if I could," said both McGovern and Watson in separate interviews.

"The future of the Army needs to be in the hands of leaders like him," Watson added.

Sacrifice

A drive through Sokorai's hometown of Philadelphia is like watching an old movie that portrays inner-city life. On nearly every corner stands a church or a bar. Row houses tightly line the streets, and neighbors wave to one another like they're family — and many of them are.

The old-fashioned, fun-driven but values-



based family that Sokorai was raised in taught him to work hard. He watched his father rise above a layoff, watched his mother devote herself to three boys, and grew up with a grandmother who remained a single parent after the death of her young husband.

"David's values come from both sides of the family. But he has a way of following his dreams, of doing things with gusto," said Carol.

Kim can't picture her husband happy with a desk job, or at ease turning his back on the Army's need for willing men and women.

"People say, 'We're sorry he's in Iraq.' But that's not how I feel about it," she said. "If he didn't go he'd be frustrated for the rest of his life because he knows he has the talent to do the job, and knows he's needed. I understand that."

So she supported him when he sold their two-bedroom townhouse, gave up a \$65,000 paycheck, traded his beloved Chevy Silverado for something easier on gas, then chased his dream south to Fort Bragg last January.

"Money isn't everything," Kim said. "I work for the government, so I didn't get into my business for the money, either. That's the kind of people we are. We're never going to be millionaires with the jobs we have, but that's okay as long as we're happy."

Will Sokorai stay this time? It depends on how things go in Iraq, what career progression looks like a year from now, and whether military pay is enough to support the handful of children they both badly want.

As for rejoining, Sokorai has no regrets.

"If I hadn't done this, I would have felt like I wasn't around when I was needed most," he said. "This is my time in history, just like it was for veterans who stood up to fight in previous wars, in the absence of a draft. It's time for everyone in my generation to do something for our country." 🇺🇸







▲ Louisiana

National Guard Soldiers SPC Clint Aucoia and PFC Christopher Tiffit attach cargo hooks supporting large bags of sand to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The bags are being used to plug levees which burst in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

— PH1 Robert McRill, USN



▲ Afghanistan

Military police Soldiers from the 164th MP Company set up an observation post during the Afghan parliamentary elections in mid September.

— SSG Ken Denny

◀ Afghanistan

A woman proudly displays her paint-marked finger, showing she has voted in the nation's first parliamentary elections.

— SSG Ken Denny

► Afghanistan

Residents of Habdulla Lek hold placards supporting their favored candidates during the parliamentary elections.

— SSG Ken Denny



► Afghanistan

CPT Jacqueline Naylor, a family practice physician with the 173rd Support Battalion, holds the baby girl she helped deliver.

— SGT Erin Maynard

▼ Israel

A Patriot missile launcher from V Corps' 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade guards the Israeli skies during exercise Juniper Cobra '05.

— SGT Kristopher Joseph



ROMEX 2005

Story by
LeAnne MacAllister

THE 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade from Germany, while deployed near the border of Ukraine and the Danube River delta in Romania — 300 kilometers east of Bucharest — built a miniature city to accommodate some 2,000 U.S. and Romanian soldiers for one month of training during Exercise ROMEX '05.

Ranges and training lanes covered some 23 square kilometers.

Soldiers from the Engr. Bde. planned and executed ROMEX '05. U.S. engineers from 7th Army Training Command in Germany built the ranges, and 7th ATC Soldiers were observer-controllers for the exercise.

Texas Army National Guard Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division's 71st Brigade Combat Team, and Alabama National Guard Soldiers

LeAnne MacAllister, a public affairs specialist in Baumholder, Germany, deployed to Romania as part of the 1st Armored Division ROMEX '05 public affairs team. All photos courtesy the 1st AD Public Affairs Office.



▲ Medical personnel rush to put a role-playing “patient” aboard a UH-60 during a medevac rehearsal in Constanta, Romania.

➤ Texas Army National Guard Soldiers prepare to stage a mock assault during ROMEX's urban warfare training phase.







▲ A Romanian soldier watches the sun set from the top of his armored personnel carrier.

from the 877th Engr. Battalion and Romania's 26th Inf. Bn. were the main training body.

One month of fully integrated training allowed U.S. and Romanian soldiers to test their interoperability while strengthening their newly formed NATO alliance.

Small-arms training, convoy and situational live fire, military operations in urban terrain, and community development and cultural exchanges marked the largest bi-lateral U.S.-Romania training exercise to date, officials said.

"This exercise is groundbreaking in many ways," said COL Lou Marich, commander of the exercise's Task Force Iron Alliance. "We are here to train our armies with state-of-the-art equipment; build friendships with our NATO allies; combine our efforts in community development projects; and, ultimately, create interoperability that will become essential to future missions."

Romanian army Col. Olimpiu

Popescu, co-commander of the task force, worked with Marich throughout the planning and operational phases of ROMEX '05.

"We have integrated our armies at every level," he said. "The ability for our Soldiers to work with another country's soldiers, using both of our nations' tactical vehicles and equipment, provides all of us a great opportunity. This exercise is key in continuing to develop our strong, successful alliance."

M2 Bradley fighting vehicles

and the Deployable Instrumentation Systems-Europe made their first appearance in Romania, Marich said. The Romanians also provided their armored personnel carriers.

Romania's president, Traian Basescu, toured the training areas during a portion of the exercise and met with soldiers and congratulated them on their training accomplishments.

"We are happy to be good partners with Americans, and I believe that Americans are glad to be good partners with us," Basescu said. "Our



► COL David Blackorby, commander of the Texas Guard's 71st BCT, greets students at the Jurilovca kindergarten after a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

► A Romanian OPFOR soldier prepares to engage 71st BCT troops during MOUT training.

mutual trust is not only on the political level. It is on the military level, starting from each soldier on up to general officers. I'm glad that we have this joint training opportunity."

At the headquarters level, "everything from logistics to medical support to force protection and personnel support has been led by teams composed of U.S. and Romanian soldiers," Marich said.

Romanian military police NCO Sgt. 1st Class Tudor Vrinceanu, a shift leader on the combined force-protection team, has worked with the U.S. military several times, including during four Kosovo deployments.

Vrinceanu said most of his soldiers learn from experience, since their army is relatively young. "Each one of these experiences teaches us more. All of us are happy working with American Soldiers. This way, both of our armies will continue to go in the right direction."

At the ranges and on the training lanes, the same joint cooperation created an environment for Soldiers to hone their skills and enhance interoperability with their allies, Marich said.

The Texas Guard's 71st BCT reorganized its units for the exercise by integrating one squad from the Romanian army into each platoon. State-of-the-art training equipment (including "smart" vests and helmets with GPS tracking systems) was used at two military-operations-in-urban-terrain sites, to provide platoons and companies a new alternative in realistic training.

Texas Guard Soldier SGT Bogden





▲ Soldiers tour a local church during a bit of down time during the exercise.

Stanei said the training was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“We Guard Soldiers haven’t seen some of this equipment in previous training exercises. Plus, the Romanian soldiers we work with are catching on quickly. Once they got the hang of the M-16s, they hit their targets at the range every time. It’s been a lot of fun working together,” said Stanei.

The joint platoons have also executed convoy live-fire missions.

“This training prepares all soldiers

“This training prepares all soldiers for deployments to military theaters of operation... .”

for deployments to military theaters of operation. It is one more step in our strategic partnership with the United States,” said Basescu.

Community Development

The Americans also worked to transform the barren lot outside a school into a playground. The community, unsure of how to show its gratitude, continually visited the site, bearing gifts of fruit for the Soldiers. By the mid-point of the exercise community members had taken up hammers and paintbrushes to work side by side with the Soldiers.

The effort was part of upgrades to four rural schools during ROMEX ‘05.

MAJ Gary Beaty, civil military affairs officer, who organized the community development projects, said the programs continued to strengthen the U.S. military’s relationship with Romania, at the local level.

“Several of these schools are in desperate need of upgrades; it’s a good opportunity for us to get involved,”

said Beaty. “We’re touching the next generation, which will grow up seeing what we’ve done here.”

Other community-relations programs were completed by Guard Soldiers, among them a collection of over \$5,000 in donations to provide school supplies to several more schools.

Other Soldiers from a medical unit provided children at Tulcea County Hospital with stuffed animals during a medical-evacuation training exercise that was held at the hospital.

“The bottom line is that ROMEX ‘05 provided an opportunity for U.S. and Romanian troops to train as NATO allies and expand their training perspectives,” said BG Michael Tucker, the 1st Armd. Div.’s assistant division commander for support.

The Soldiers who participated in ROMEX ‘05 will continue to build on the interoperability and camaraderie developed at ROMEX ‘05 during joint missions in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan in the near future, exercise officials said. 🇺🇸



▲ Soldiers recover from an “attack” during convoy training.



▲ Association president George Gentry talks with LTC Jeffrey Sinclair, commander of the 1st Bn., 18th Inf.

EACH day Soldiers from the Schweinfurt, Germany-based 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, walk by a street sign that reads “Walter D. Ehlers Drive.” Recently, Soldiers were given the opportunity to meet Ehlers, an 18th Inf. veteran who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II.

Battalion commander LTC Jeffrey Sinclair invited members of the 18th Inf. Regt. Association to welcome home the unit’s new veterans and enjoy a weekend of social events.

“This experience gives the Soldiers perspective and ties them to their past,” said battalion executive officer MAJ Mike Morrissey.

Morrissey organized the veterans’ visit and arranged events for them to attend so that they could meet young veterans.

“We at the association found out

Kristen Chandler Toth is with the 280th BSB Public Affairs Office.

families, and military families that we identify with and love. For me, my military family has always been the 18th, because this is the unit I fought in and served with in Vietnam. There are ties that go all the way to the core of your soul. You can’t get away from them and you don’t want to,” said Naman Carter, honorary CSM for the battalion.

“Something in these veterans’ experiences was formative for them and that’s helped them stay in touch with their lineage. It helps them to pass it on to this next generation of Vanguard,” said MAJ Steve Miska, the battalion operations officer.

SFC Kurt Hopson, a World War II history buff, was excited to meet and talk to each of the veterans. He asked questions and gleaned wisdom from their experience.

that the troops were coming home and wanted to thank them for their service and keep up the tradition,” said 18th Inf. Regt. Association President George Gentry.

“We all have biological families, church

Vets Supporting Vets

Story and Photos by
Kristen Chandler Toth

“From the shores of Normandy Beach to Vietnam to OIF 2, we’re all combat infantrymen, and that makes our bond special,” Hopson said.

“I see myself in so many of the young Soldiers here. It makes me proud of my country. Our country is lucky to have these Soldiers and the wives and families who support them,” said Patrick McLaughlin, who fought with the 18th Inf. in Vietnam 38 years ago.

An important aspect of the weekend for Sinclair was the opportunity to help the new veterans see that they’re part of something bigger than the war in Iraq.

“I can think of no better way to celebrate our past and present — and look forward to the future — than to have the veterans here for this event,” Sinclair said. 🇺🇸



▲ World War II Medal of Honor recipient Walter Ehlers and SGT Justin Miller bond during the Saturday dinner.



◀ The Corps of Discovery followed the Columbia River for much of its length through what is now Washington state, along the way creating detailed maps.

To the Sea:

Lewis and Clark Reach the Pacific

Story by Steve Harding

“OCEAN in view! Oh! The joy!”
 With this hastily scrawled journal entry on Nov. 7, 1805, CPT William Clark expressed the elation felt by all members of the expedition he and CPT Meriwether Lewis had been leading across North America for more than two years. The party had been following the Columbia River for two months, and their Oct. 18 sighting of Mount Hood confirmed that they were nearing the Pacific Ocean.

While the water Clark saw on that fateful day two centuries ago was not actually the sea — it was the eastern end of what is today called Gray’s Bay — the members of the Corps of Discovery were just 20 miles from their goal. And though the next month would be a trying time of storms and physical hardships, by Christmas day the explorers would be safely sheltered for the winter in a sturdy fort built by their own hands — Fort Clatsop.

The End of the River

The day they sighted what they thought was the Pacific began in a special way for the members of the Corps of Discovery, said Jill Harding, the chief of visitor services at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Astoria, Ore.

“They got a bit later start that day, because they cleaned themselves up and got into as much military attire as they could, mainly because they expected to see either a ship or some sort of European or American outpost,” she said.

Their expectations were to be disappointed, however, for as they worked their way downriver they were hit by one of the region’s frequent storms.

“Our storms here come from the southwest, so the party’s boats were literally pinned to the river’s north bank,” Harding said. “They had to make very slow progress from point to point, and they finally reached a small anchorage they called Dismal Niche. It was a good name, because they were scattered along the bottom of steep cliffs, huddled



◀ Reaching the Pacific Ocean was a major milestone for the explorers, for it marked the western terminus of their journey and the half-way point of the long expedition.



▲ Lewis and Clark discuss the next segment of their journey in this famous painting by Frederic Remington.



around small campfires, and they talk about 200-foot logs being thrown up at them by the waves in the river.”

The storm eventually died down enough, Harding said, that the party could look for a safer haven. They made it around a difficult point of land they called Dismal Point, and found a big sandy beach where they made camp.

While they explored what is now the Washington side of the river, they were buffeted by increasingly bad weather. Another huge storm soon rolled in, Harding said, and when it passed the temperature dropped significantly.

Clark realized that the party needed some form of shelter from the elements, and he and Lewis decided to consult with members of the local native tribes — Chinookan people on the north bank of the Columbia and Clatsop people from what is now Oregon — about possible havens nearby. Both groups were friendly, having long traded with the crews of European and American ships that put into the Columbia River, and their advice was invaluable.

After having made it to the mouth of the Columbia on its northern shore and finally standing on the shores of the



▲ The sheltered wetlands just below the site that became Fort Clatsop offered the explorers shelter from the elements, plentiful water and a good source of food.





vast Pacific, the party sought a winter sanctuary on the river's south side.

In Search of Shelter

"The trip to the south side was a roundabout one," Harding said. "Because their canoes weren't especially seaworthy, they first had to go about 25 miles back up the river to find a

▲ The current Fort Clatsop, a close replica of the original, was built in 1955 in the general area of the first structure. A popular tourist attraction, it hosts some 200,000 visitors each year.

◀ The fort features the same sturdy log construction as the original, and is surrounded by a palisade pierced by a single main entrance.

crossing place that was somewhat sheltered. The Chinookan and Clatsop peoples, on the other hand, had canoes that were built to withstand the local conditions, and they were able to row directly across the mouth of the river."

The explorers started looking at potential campsites and, after rejecting the area of what is now downtown Astoria, eventually found themselves in a small bay, Harding said. Lewis was the first to enter the bay, and he led the party three or four miles up a small river to an area dominated by a knoll about 32 feet above water level.

The members of the party went ashore on Dec. 7, identified a good campsite, and on Dec. 11 began construction of a 50-by-50 foot wooden stockade, their journals show. By Christmas Day they had a roof over their heads, and the small fort was

done by New Years Day, 1806.

"The area was sheltered from the wind, was well timbered and had a lot of elk," Harding said. "There were also fresh-water springs on the site, and the men were still close enough to the ocean that they could hear if a ship came into the mouth of the river. All in all, it was an excellent spot for a fort."

A Military Outpost

Once safely sheltered in Fort Clatsop, the members of the Corps of Discovery quickly reinstated the military routines that were the framework of the expedition.

"Many people are surprised to learn of the military nature of the expedition," Harding said, "because for many years the members of the party were portrayed essentially as mountain men."

Recent historical studies have focused greater attention on the military aspects of the expedition and the fact that its members were Soldiers, she said.

"They were members of a military expedition and followed military discipline. They shaved every three days on the way west, and though their original



uniforms didn't last long, they tried to maintain a military appearance," Harding said. "Here at Fort Clatsop they stood guard duty and even started drilling again."

Harding believes that the military aspect of the expedition helped Lewis and Clark succeed where other explorers have failed.

"Lewis and Clark were military leaders who enforced discipline, and that gave the men a framework which allowed them to persevere despite the many hardships," she said.

A Popular Reconstruction

The Corps of Discovery stayed at Fort Clatsop until starting the return trek to the east on March 23, 1806. Unfortunately, their "safe haven and home from home" didn't survive for long after their departure.

"There is nothing left of the original fort, and we haven't found anything that we can say with absolute certainty is related to Lewis and Clark," Harding said. "Lead shot and beads of both glass and brass have been found in the area, and they're from that era, but they could have come off trading ships or belonged to

the homesteaders that later settled in the area."

The last logs from the original fort were apparently cleared by homesteaders in the 1850s, she said.

The current Fort Clatsop, a close replica of the original, was built in 1955 in the general area of the first structure. About five miles south of Astoria, it is a popular tourist destination and hosts about 200,000 visitors a year. Some 8,000 to 9,000 of those guests are school children.

"Most people come to see the Fort itself," Harding said. "But we also have an historic canoe landing, there are several miles of hiking trails, and a few miles away on the beach there is a reconstruction of the salt works used by the Lewis and Clark party."

There are also special events at various times of the year, said Sean Johnson, a seasonal park ranger who spends much of the summer and part of the winter at Fort Clatsop re-enacting the Lewis and Clark period.

"We do living-history presentations here from June through Labor Day," he said. "We dress in period uniforms and demonstrate things like drill, musket firing and candle making.

▲ Visitors to the current fort get a close-up glimpse of what living conditions would have been like for the members of the Corps of Discovery in their snug but spartan quarters.

We also have special events at Christmas and on other occasions."

A visit to Fort Clatsop is an interesting way to explore the history of both the nation and the Army, Harding said.

"We have much to offer to both casual visitors and serious researchers," she said, "and we welcome the chance to share this fascinating place with everyone." 🇺🇸



🇺🇸 To learn more about Fort Clatsop, visit www.nps.gov/focl/index.htm.

Air Assault in Germany



Story and Photos by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

STANDING in line at the base of a rappel tower at Camp Robertson, Germany, PV2 Gregory Hernandez said he felt calm. But he realized that could all change very soon.

"On the top, it could be a little different," said Hernandez. A member of Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, he was a recent student in the first Army air-assault course taught in Germany.

When students first bounded down the 52-foot tower, they had a wall to fall back on. When they came down the other side of the tower, they had only their "brake" hand and air separating them from the ground.

The rappelling tower was just one of the challenges Hernandez and the other students had to overcome. They also experienced an excruciating "zero" day, during which more than 25 percent of the class washed out. There were foot marches, including a 12-miler on the final day that had to be completed in three hours while lugging 35 pounds of gear and carrying a rifle.

"I felt pretty sore and a little beat up," said 2LT Joshua Hearn, from Headquarters and HQs. Co., 1st Bn., 77th Armored Regiment. "It was a pretty good gut check. I didn't know the last six miles would be so rough."

Other challenges included helicopter sling-load operations and lots of written tests, the latter of which took some of the Soldiers by surprise.

SGT Wayne W. Marlow is a member of the 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office in Germany.



SGT W. Wayne Marlow

▲ Rappelling was just one of the many requirements facing students in the first Army Air Assault Course taught in Germany, held at Camp Robertson.



▲ Students run to the rappel tower at Camp Robertson.

A 12-miler on the final day had to be completed in three hours while lugging 35 pounds of gear and carrying a rifle.

“It’s definitely more mentally challenging than I expected,” said SPC Christian Smith, of HHC, 2nd Bde. “I didn’t realize we’d have to remember so many numbers. There’s a lot of information to take in.”

Hernandez expressed similar sentiments. He said he disliked the written tests, and he described the sling-load phase of the course as stressful.

“It was pretty hard,” he said. “I had a ‘no-go’ on one of the sling-load events, but I retested and got it. It’s been a lot more work than I expected.”

Hernandez said he considered zero day more stressful than his first day of basic training.

The day before zero day consisted of in-processing, which convinced Smith the course would be much more laid-back than he thought.

“I expected the cadre to be yelling at us the first day, and there was nothing,” he said. “So the next day I was expecting it to be relaxed, and they

were ‘firing smoke.’”

It all served as a lead-in to the rest of the course, with its foot marches, rappelling and occasional “smoke” sessions.

“I did a lot of marching back in basic training, but here you have to go a lot faster. You have to meet a certain time,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez advises those who come to the course to be physically fit to endure the PT portion of the program, be prepared to take written tests and not let nerves get the better of them.

The hands-on portion of sling-load training came on day five. One Soldier would signal a slow-descending helicopter into place, and when it hovered low enough, two more Soldiers would hook the load into place.

While the testing and sling-load operations caught Smith by surprise, he found the rest of the course to his liking.



▲ Soldiers practice tying their rappel seats prior to bounding down the tower.

“I’ve rappelled before. I’m not afraid of heights,” he said. “This is the fun stuff. I’m really looking forward to rappelling out of Black Hawk helicopters. That’s the main reason I came here.”

In spite of the smoke sessions and raised voices, Hernandez and Smith report the students had nothing but respect for the cadre, who are National Guard Soldiers from the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga.

▼ While waiting their turn to mount the obstacle called the “Confidence Climb,” Soldiers follow instructions given by an air assault instructor.





▲ An instructor motivates a Soldier to keep going through the difficult “belly crawl” obstacle.

“They’re very professional, but you must pay attention to detail,” Smith said. “Sometimes it reverts to what it was like in basic training, but what are you going to do?”

“The instructors were very student-oriented,” Hernandez said. “They stayed out as late as we needed them to every night to make sure we knew how to do each of the tasks.”

Originally, the Warrior Training Center was a pre-Ranger school, but it added air assault to its curriculum after similar schools operated by the 25th Infantry Div. and 10th Mountain Div. were closed. Germany was selected as a course site because the previous 1st Inf. Div. commanding general wanted air assault school to be offered as a re-enlistment incentive while the division served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. 🇺🇸

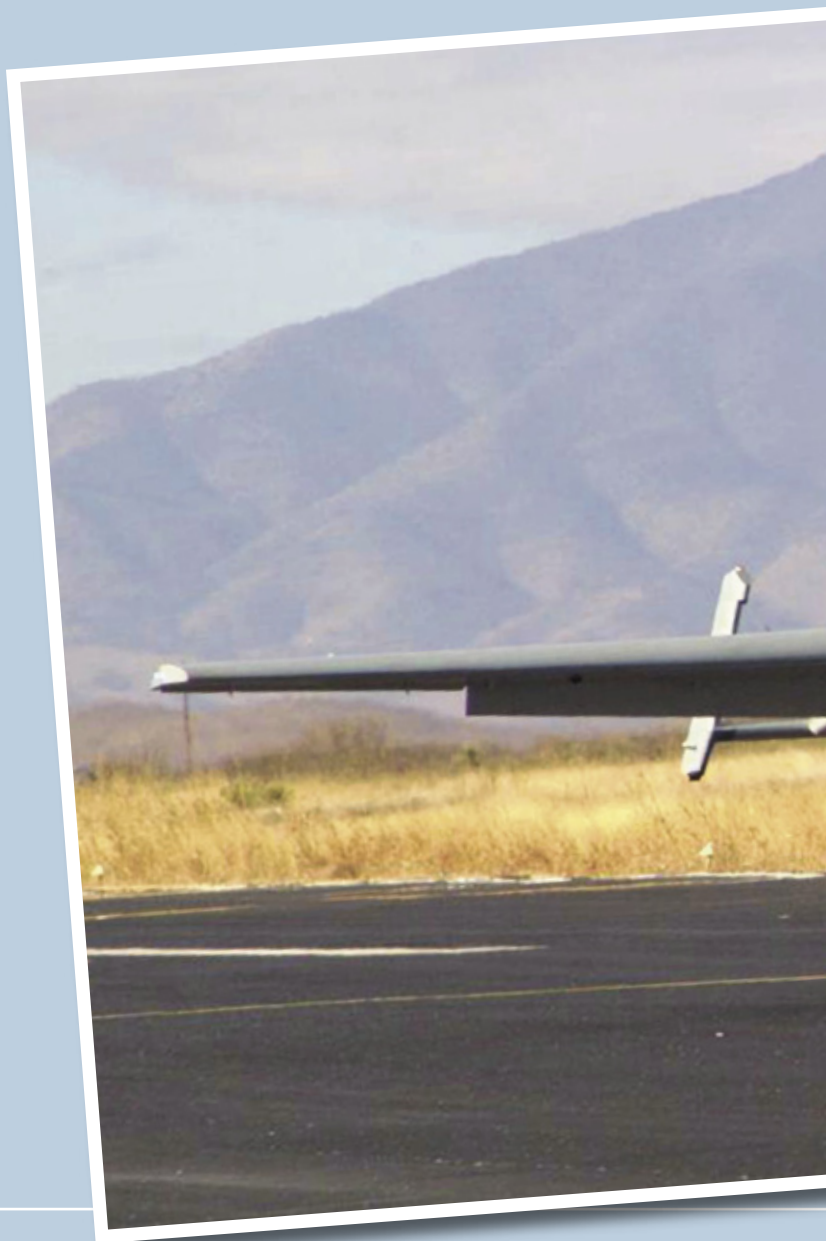
➤ Three air assault trainees cling to bars as they attempt to weave themselves through an obstacle while obeying the “hurry up!” orders from the instructor.



► Among Army Materiel Command's programs are those dealing with unmanned aerial vehicles, such as this Hunter taking off on a training mission from Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

AMC: BETTER SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS

Story by Tesia Williams



WHEN Soldiers are asked about the U.S. Army Materiel Command, many know little or nothing about the organization that supplies their bullets and batteries, tanks and trucks, weapons and food, and which stores and destroys chemical weapons.

AMC focuses on Soldiers' needs and strives to get them what they need, when they need it, AMC officials said.

To do so, AMC has had to make some recent changes, streamlining its procurement processes, researching and developing new weapon systems and technology, and destroying chemical-weapons stockpiles.

In August 2004 Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoo-

maker approved what's called the Life-cycle Management Command Initiative that brings the acquisition, logistics and technology communities together to improve the way the Army develops, buys and maintains the equipment Soldiers use — from the first day they receive it to the day it's removed from the Army inventory.

"We're able to be more efficient and more responsive to the needs of Soldiers in the field today," said GEN Benjamin Griffin, AMC commanding general.

So far, four AMC major subordinate commands have evolved into life-cycle management commands: the Aviation and Missile Command; Communications-Electronics Command; Tank-automotive and Armaments Command; and the Chemical Materials Agency.

Tesia Williams works in AMC's Public Communications Office.



➤ AMC also manages the Shadow UAV program. Here (*left*) Maryland National Guard Soldiers prepare a Shadow for launch, while Pennsylvania Guard member SPC Paul Morrongiello (*inset*) operates the camera aboard another Shadow.

- Seen here being used in Iraq, the Omni-Directional Inspection System, which can inspect cars at checkpoints, gives Soldiers the ability to remotely inspect vehicles from up to 100 yards away.
- ▼ Up-armored Humvees prepared by AMC's Field Support Brigade-Europe await loading aboard an Air Force C-17 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.



The Joint Munitions Command, which will eventually be dubbed the Joint Ammunition LCMC, will begin operating in the near future.

The commands were chosen based on their alignment with corresponding program-executive-office communities. And CMA was already functioning as a LCMC, officials said.

The new life-cycle commands can reach to the lowest level and drive depot and ammunition production. They also affect the life of a weapon system by introducing improved parts to existing systems that will save maintenance time and money. The “cradle-to-grave” support has a direct link to logistics and contract representatives in the field, which is all critical in today’s environment, Griffin said.

While the war on terrorism was not the sole reason for establishing LCMCs, it definitely added to the sense of urgency for the realignments and will affect the way the commands do business, said Barbara Bishop, AMC’s senior LCMC project officer.

“Old and new military equipment is getting a lot of use in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Bishop said. “The LCMCs are focusing on acquiring new equipment and maintaining old equipment to support unit readiness.

“Everything we do is for Soldiers, and we’ll assist them by reducing acquisition-cycle time, making good products better, and minimizing life-cycle cost,” Bishop said.

Making good products better is the number-one goal of many AMC scientists and engineers. They’re

always looking for ways to improve weapon systems and capabilities. One such system is the unmanned aerial vehicle.

UAVs have been around for decades. They were used during the first Gulf War and in Bosnia, and are being used extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Currently, four types of UAVs are being used in Southwest Asia: the Shadow, I-GNAT, Raven and Hunter. Each differs in its capability to search and “call” for fire on enemy targets, and monitor safe-house locations.

“Soldiers find great value in that ‘eye in the sky,’” said Tim Owings, deputy project manager for Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems. “When UAVs are in place, mortar and rocket attacks decline.”

Currently, there is only one I-GNAT and one Hunter system in Iraq.



Technicians with the Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq apply "TankSkin" to a fuel tanker. The high-tech coating is self-sealing and provides increased ballistic protection.

Vincenzo Basile, a mechanic from Field Support Battalion-Livorno (Italy) and SPC Curtis S. Haugen check an M-923 truck before its deployment to Iraq.

C.W. Fick Jr.





▲ An overhead crane lifts an on-site container from the bed of a tractor-trailer into the container handling building at Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The latter weighs 1,800 pounds, has a wing span of 34 feet, and requires about 45 Soldiers to operate in two separate locations.

By contrast, the Raven, significantly smaller and hand-launched, emerged when the Army identified a need for something more functional for dismounted Soldiers. There are more than 170 Raven systems (three aircraft per system) in theater. Each Raven aircraft weighs just under four pounds, has a wing span of 4.5 feet, and only requires two to three Soldiers to operate.

Weighing about 10 times as much as the Raven, the Shadow is the most widely used system in Iraq and requires round-the-clock manning.

Each UAV is flown by enlisted personnel, some of whom have given positive remarks and suggestions for upgrades, officials said.

"There is an intense upgrade effort on every platform in the fleet," Owings said. "And 100 percent of the upgrades come from lessons learned in the field."

The Hunter, which is primarily used for recon activities, is getting a laser designator for targeting missions. This new feature reduces the risk to

helicopters and provides much greater survivability for aviators, Owings said.

In addition, the Hunter now has the ability to identify, engage and kill targets directly with Viper strike missiles. This feature is on a system currently in Iraq, although it hasn't been used yet, he added.

Other systems have been or are being researched and developed by AMC engineers.

Among them are the Omni-Directional Inspection System and the Full Spectrum Active Protection Close-in Layered Shield, often referred to as FCLAS.

The ODIS, which looks like a robotic vacuum cleaner, can inspect cars and trucks at checkpoints, and perform other missions on paved or packed dirt roads, Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center officials said.

The robots can be equipped with radiation and chemical/biological detectors. Researchers are also evaluating the feasibility of outfitting them with a disruptor mount, which neutralizes potential improvised-explosive devices and remote-controlled devices.

Currently, more than 30 units are supporting the global war on terrorism in the United States and abroad.

TARDEC engineers developed the FCLAS, which helps to deflect short-range, rocket-propelled-grenade attacks through the use of a counter-munition radar. The technology, which can be integrated into any vehicle platform, is controlled by a computer system located inside the vehicle. Once fielded, the FCLAS, combined with vehicle armor, will provide Soldiers with robust protection against RPGs, officials said.

Two time zones and more than 2,000 miles away from Southwest Asia, a new command, Army Field Support Brigade-Europe, is the product of a merger between Combat Equipment Group-Europe and AMC Forward-Europe.

The unit, formed in November 2004, provides modular, expeditionary logistics support to units throughout U.S. European Command and into the Central Command area of operations.

Since its formation, elements of the unit have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, providing logistics support to combat forces, said COL Xavier P. Lobeto, commander of Army FSB-Europe.

"By harnessing all AMC elements in the theater, we're giving commanders a single point of entry, which certainly makes us more responsive," Lobeto said.

Commanders and elements of field-support battalions, formerly called combat-equipment battalions, in Luxembourg and Hythe, England, have also deployed and formed battalions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The battalions bring 20 years of experience in delivering combat-ready equipment to the battlefield.

"Many of the tanks and trucks the 3rd Infantry Division drove to victory in Operation Iraqi Freedom were delivered by CEG-E, which has become an arm of the new brigade," Lobeto said.

By linking up with representatives from TACOM, AMCOM and other AMC subordinate commands, the battalions and Army FSB-Europe are better able to solve problems and provide faster results than ever before, Lobeto said.


New field-support brigades are currently forming and will ultimately replace Army FSB-Europe in Southwest Asia.

While Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting, civilians, contractors and military personnel in the United States are working to destroy the nation's chemical-weapons stockpile by December 2007, to reduce risks to national security.

CMA director Michael Parker said the destruction of chemical munitions at Johnston Atoll, a U.S. territory in the North Pacific, was completed in 2004. Some 6,500 tons of chemical munitions have also been destroyed at Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah.

"Also, the entire mustard-gas stockpile at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., has been drained and neutralized," Parker said.

CMA will soon begin chemical-munitions disposal operations at Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.

Disposal facilities are currently operating at Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood, Md.; Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.; Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.; and Deseret Chemical Depot. 



▲ A toxic-material handler performs a routine inspection of bulk containers of mustard gas in a storage igloo at Deseret Chemical Depot.

Always a Soldier

"YOU'RE not in this fight alone," Steve Clark often tells wounded Soldiers when he visits them at Army and Navy medical centers in the Washington, D.C., area.

Through a U.S. Army Materiel Command program called "Always a Soldier," Clark, the program's coordinator, ensures no Soldier is left behind when he or she leaves the battlefield.

The program honors the sacrifices of wounded service members by assisting them with civilian job placement within the command.

Every Friday Clark visits the outpatient treatment facilities at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., to give patients with job information, help them to get food and clothing, and explain the medical-board process. Clark, himself a wounded Soldier, was hired through the program.

Thus far, five people, including Clark, have been hired for jobs within AMC. Program coordinators throughout the country are hoping to recruit more people with help from the Disabled Soldier Support System, the Military Severely Injured Joint Operations Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"There are a lot of Defense Department resources out there, and I want to make sure injured Soldiers benefit, just as I did," Clark said. — *Tesia Williams*



Commo-

STRETCHED across thousands of miles of open desert, from the border of Kuwait deep into northern Iraq, is a string of communication lines that provide a vital conduit for the hundreds of supply convoys and military patrols that traverse Iraq's highways every day.

Ensuring that the communication link is never broken is the job of infantrymen of the Texas Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 56th Brigade Combat Team, who man several radio-relay points spread out along the coalition's main supply route.

The Soldiers live in fortified camps that are sanctuaries or refuges for coalition patrols and commercial convoys traveling over the MSR.

SGT David Verdine Jr., an NCO at one of the camps, said his team's primary mission is to relay information up and down the MSR, and if a truck in a convoy has a mechanical breakdown on the highway, his team will send a quick-reaction force out to provide security and recover the vehicle.

"We're like the eyes for the patrols going up and down the MSR,"

(Continued on page 40)

MSG Lek Mateo is a member of the Texas Army National Guard's 56th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.

Link Protectors

Story and Photos by MSG Lek Mateo



Strings of barbed wire protect a relay point located on top of a mountain which is manned by British and U.S. Soldiers of the Texas Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Inf. Div., in southern Iraq.

(Top) SPC Matthew L. McKamie uses binoculars to keep an eye out for signs of trouble during his watch at a radio-relay point in Southern Iraq.

(Continued from page 38)

Verdine said. "If we weren't here, the patrols would be blind as to what's up ahead of them on the road."

Living in isolation, in an austere environment, has brought his Soldiers closer together, like a tight-knit family, Verdine said.

SPC Joel Inman is a medic at another RP. He's responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of the Soldiers who have to live in very confined spaces and, at times, have to cook their own meals and dispose of human waste by burning it.

Inman said his duties as a medic range from ensuring that everything in the living area is clean to making sure the Soldiers stay cool and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration. He can also treat wounds and, when morale becomes an issue, he's there for Soldiers who just need someone to talk to.

"I had to build a lot of trust with these guys within the last couple of months," Inman said. "With the knowledge and care that I've demonstrated during the short time that we've been together, I feel like they trust me now."

For one Soldier the dangers of protecting an RP became all too real when he was wounded by a sniper's



▲ An M2 .50 caliber machine gun is aimed at a road leading into a remote RP located in the hills of northern Iraq.

▼ Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 142nd Inf., man and protect an Iraqi radio transmission tower at a radio relay point in southern Iraq.

bullet during a guard watch on a 30-foot observation tower.

SPC Felix Silva Jr. thought his shift would be like any other day, but his life changed dramatically a few short hours into his watch.


As he was in the tower scanning his sector, he heard a gun shot. Within a few seconds, the high-pitched hiss of a second bullet screamed past the tower. That was when he realized someone was shooting at him.

Silva said that as he was turning in the direction of the MSR, he could see a person lying on the road firing a third round, which is when he got on his M-240B machine gun and returned fire.

He stopped firing after the shooter escaped into a crowd of people, because he didn't want to hit any innocent bystanders.

After a rush of adrenaline died down, Silva realized he'd been hit in the left arm.

The wound has since healed, and Silva is back on duty, but the one lesson he said he learned from his experience is not to be complacent.

"Granted, sometimes there isn't much happening out here, but every now and then there'll be some kind of activity," Silva said. "It could be something that ends your life. So you have to stay alert and stay on your toes all the time." 



"DRAFTED" to the NFL

Story and Photos by Brian Murphy

ROBERT McCune, a middle linebacker from Louisville, Ky., was chosen in the fifth round (154th overall) of the 2005 National Football League draft by the Washington Redskins.

While 254 other athletes were selected during the two-day draft, what sets McCune apart from everyone else is that he showed similar traits during his time in the Army.

After graduation from high school in Mobile, Ala., he enlisted in the Army for three years as a petroleum specialist.

"I just wanted to go in the military, get a chance to grow up and mature, and then use the G.I. Bill to pay for college," he said. "I wanted to do my time and then walk on to a Division I school and try to earn a scholarship."

During his tenure McCune was stationed in Korea and at Fort Stewart, Ga., and he deployed to Kuwait for six months in support of an infantry unit as a fuel handler. In the rare instances when he wasn't working out, McCune was engaged in deep conversations with fellow Soldiers.

"I think my time in the Army prepared me for life," said McCune, who was a corporal when he left the Army. "Time in the service taught me to be prepared for anything."

Once his enlistment was up, McCune enrolled at the University of Louisville and made the Cardinals football team in 2000. He used the G.I. Bill to pay for the first semester of school, but by the second semester he had impressed his coaches enough to earn a scholarship. He was named special teams player

of the year in 2001. By his final two seasons, McCune was a team captain.

With his degree in education in hand, McCune focused on preparing for the NFL draft. Although at 26 he was one of the oldest players available in the draft, McCune didn't worry about being passed over because of his age.

"I'm still the same guy," he said. "I do what I'm supposed to do, give it my all. I'll never say 'I wish I would have done this.' I don't want to have any regrets."

Since the first day he arrived at Redskins Park, people have had nothing but good things to say about the 6-foot, 245-pound McCune.

"I'm a little amazed at how fast he's picked this up," said Gregg Williams, assistant head coach for defense, at the team's first mini-camp. "I'm really anxious to watch him play."

To ease the learning curve, Williams said that he and linebacker coach

Dale Lindsey are limiting the amount of packages and plays they are starting McCune out in.

"He has done a

remarkable job of learning the base packages," Williams said. "A couple of the running backs and tight ends have already been smacked by him because he knows what to do."

If it looks like McCune will one day blossom into a star, it's because he has the potential. That's what his teammates have told him.


"It can happen," said offensive lineman Ray Brown, a 20-year NFL veteran. "It starts with how you think. You can do anything you put your mind to. If you can wrap your mind around the fact that you can be from a small school, from a small town and play for the NFL, it can happen."

"Guys have to get over that feeling of being overwhelmed," Brown said. "Guys can't worry about playing for mortgages and bank accounts. Self-confidence plays a big part in feeling like you belong here."

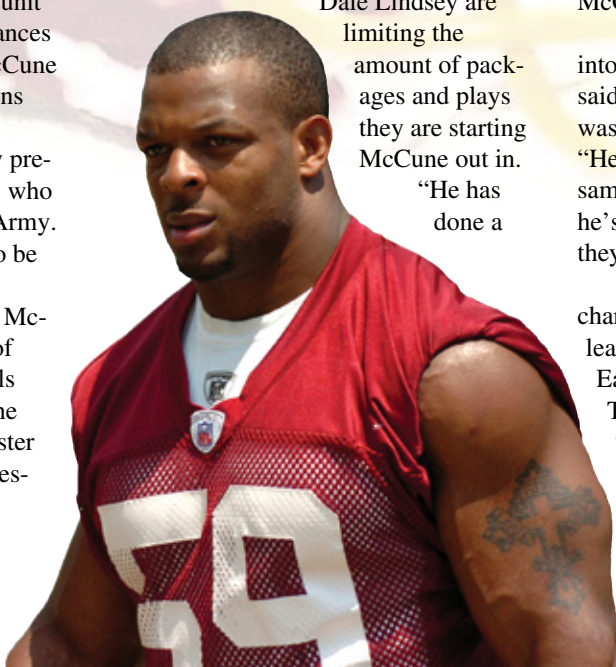
Teammates have tried to prepare McCune for the road ahead.

"It's difficult for anyone to come into a system and break in as a starter," said offensive tackle Jon Jansen, who was drafted by the Redskins in 1999. "He's going to have to go through the same process as everyone else, and if he's the best player for the job, then they'll put him in the game."

And that's all McCune wants — a chance to prove he can cut it in this league. After six months in the Middle East, this is a piece of cake, he said. That's why McCune gets annoyed when he hears an NFL player making comparisons between football and war.

"In war, you have real bullets flying around," he said. "Soldiers are doing their jobs to protect us, and we're just doing what we love to do — play football." 

Brian Murphy works for the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.





▲ Philadelphia native SPC Dawn Hudson performed "Georgia on My Mind."



▲ SPC David Linson II and 1LT Heather Gross dazzled audiences.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show travels throughout the world visiting various military bases and offering Soldiers a chance to relax and enjoy an evening of music, song and dance. One such stop on the 2005 tour was the Clayton County Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro, Ga. 🇺🇸



▲ Army Reserve SSG Chaney Mosley, a medical lab technician, wowed audiences with his performance.



▲ Linson and Gross performed a duet of "Hit the Road, Jack."

U.S. Army

Soldier Show

Mail photo submissions for
Sharp Shooters to:

Photo Editor, Soldiers
9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581

Digital images should be directed to:
lisa.gregory@belvoir.army.mil

All submissions must include an
introductory paragraph and captions.

PAYDAY LOANS = COSTLY CASH

THE Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate service members about the dangers of borrowing from “loan-shark” lending companies, and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt.

“The most prevalent form of loan-shark lending affecting military personnel is what is known as “payday loans,” said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. These short-term, high-rate loans are also called cash-advance loans, post-dated check loans or deferred-deposit cash loans.

“A payday loan is essentially a plug — money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills,” Molino said.

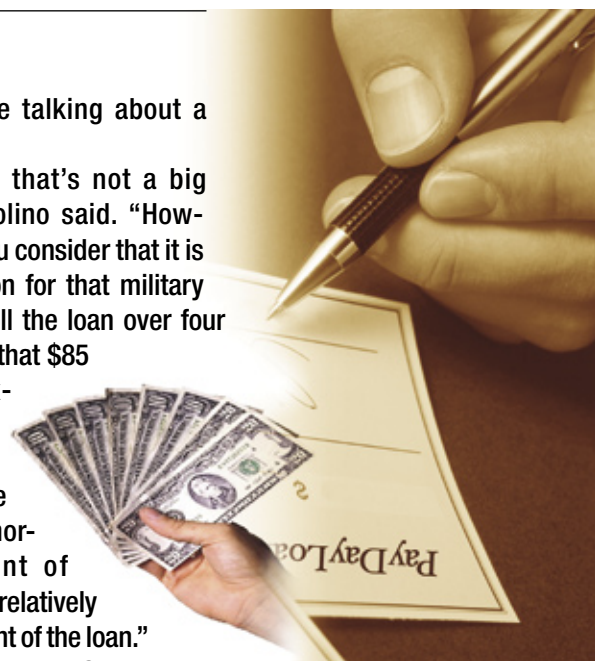
But the cost of borrowing that money is high.

“Typically, a payday loan of \$100 will cost the borrower \$17 for two weeks. The average payday loan is about \$500,

so now we’re talking about a fee of \$85.

“By itself, that’s not a big problem,” Molino said. “However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan.”

— From AFIS and FTC releases



The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following alternatives to payday loans.

- ✓ Look for the credit offer with the lowest annual percentage rate. Consider a small loan from your credit union or small loan company, an advance on pay from your employer, or a loan from family or friends.
- ✓ Ask your creditors for more time to pay your bills. Find out what they charge for that service — as a late charge, additional finance charge or higher interest rate.
- ✓ Compare the APR and the finance charge (which includes loan fees, interest and other types of credit costs) of credit offers to get the lowest cost.
- ✓ Make a realistic budget, and figure your monthly and daily expenditures. Avoid unnecessary purchases. Build up savings — even small amounts can help in emergencies.

KEEPING LOVED ONES IN TOUCH

A NEW Web site is changing the way information passes to and between families when Soldiers deploy. The virtual family readiness group system enhances traditional FRGs by acting as a portal for official and unofficial information among unit leaders, Soldiers and families.

“The virtual readiness group is designed to replicate the major components of FRGs but in a virtual context,” said Jay M. Burcham, chief of the Deployment and Mobilization Readiness Division in the Family Programs Directorate at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va.

Soldiers deployed worldwide can communicate with families by logging into the system, which offers instant messaging, forums and discussion groups, post cards,

and file and document sharing.

The site features a unit vFRG locator, a kids and teens area, a phone tree organization chart, tools for emergency planning, blogs, a training tracker and metrics for the unit commander to determine the state of family readiness, FRG leader forums content and more.

Users must first register and be authenticated by command-level administrators. This feature is important to unit commanders concerned with maintaining operational security of the information they provide to families, Burcham said. — Army News Service



Units can sign up to establish a virtual FRG at www.armyfrg.org. For more information • e-mail ArmyVirtualFRG@cfsc.army.mil or call (703) 681-7407.

LEAVING A LEGACY

LEARN something new? Share it with the new Army Mentorship Community and Army Mentorship Resource Center Web sites available to Army Knowledge Online users.

Mentorship has been a part of Army culture for years, said John McLaurin, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for human resources.

"It is an extremely powerful tool for personal and professional development; it improves competence, leadership skills, self-awareness, morale and retention," he said.

There are several tailored forums within the Army Mentorship Community. Each offers the opportunity for open dialogue among voluntary mentors and those seeking advice and guidance. Open discussions are highly encouraged in the forums in order to help others develop and grow personally and professionally.

The Army Mentorship Resource Center offers valuable information, including related articles, a mentorship handbook, a sample Individual Development Action Plan and a searchable mentorship profile server for mentors. — ARNEWS

Visit the center at mentorship.army.mil; from this site you can also log on to the AKO Army Mentorship Community.



"...it is the men and women of America who will fill the need. One mentor, one person, can change a life forever. And I urge you to be that one person."

*President George W. Bush,
State of the Union Speech, Jan 28, 2003*



Send Mail

ANYSOLDIER.COM

WANT to support a Soldier in harm's way but have no idea what to send, who to send it to or how to send it?

Check out www.AnySoldier.com. The site features e-mails from service members regarding the type of support needed in the field. The support ranges from letters and toiletries to food and entertainment.

Service members' whose names are listed on the site are volunteers who've agreed to deliver donors' packages and letters to anyone who receives little mail. Packages are addressed to volunteers' names, with "ATTN: Any Soldier" on the second line so the recipient knows to handle the mail in accordance with AnySoldier.com's effort.

AnySoldier.com has reached approximately 99,690 service members through 3,484 military contacts.

Check out:
www.AnySoldier.com.

A Guard Family

AS children, Chris Cartwright and his older brother, John Cartwright Jr., raced around on a tank with their father, John Cartwright Sr., during his National Guard unit's drill weekends.

They had the times of their lives, but as young boys, they couldn't have imagined that they'd be doing something quite similar 20 years in the future.

The boys, like their father, are cavalry scouts serving in the Army Reserve's Troop F, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and are deployed to Iraq.

The younger Cartwrights are both NCOs — Chris is a sergeant, "Junior" is a corporal — and their dad is now their first sergeant.

Both sons enjoy being assigned to the same unit as their father despite the good-natured ribbing they endure.

"We catch heat all the time for being the first sergeant's kids, even though I am hundreds of miles away," said Junior, who's assigned to a different location because the unit doesn't want all three family members colocated. "It hasn't really affected me at all. I just work hard, and I know I've done my job."

The trio is used to working together. Their father owns a construction and contracting business in their hometown of Bristol, Tenn. He employs Chris and works with Junior whenever the job permits.

John has been in the Army for 35 years and has been with his present unit 25 years, making him the longest-serving member of the troop. He views his whole troop as family.

"We've always wanted to be deployed together,"



"We've always wanted to be deployed together."

John said. He feels that the unit cohesion goes a long way in making the time go by faster. "The unit feels like a family, so having my boys here is just an extension of that."

John's wife is a little worried about them all being deployed together, but they all reassure her they're all right.

The brothers don't worry about being in danger so much but their father is a little worried about his boys.

"It's a lot harder on me, being a first sergeant and a father, than it is on them," John said. "I haven't run into it yet, but it could be hard sending my boys out on a dangerous mission." 🚩

PFC Dan Balda is with the 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.

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Army Well-Being “The Human Dimension of Readiness,” May at pg. 32.

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Army Transformation

Europe’s Land Combat Expo, Feb 16. USAREUR’s Land Combat Expo is the premier professional-development program for Europe-based Soldiers.

The New Secretary of the Army, Mar 8. Dr. Francis J. Harvey talks about the state of the Army and his priorities for the future.

Making the Most of Lessons Learned, Jul 14. In a time of change, the Center for Army Lessons Learned leads the way.

Call to Duty

Honoring the Fallen, May 26. This Memorial Day the nation honors those who have given their lives in defense of freedom.

A Family Like No Other, May 30. Medal of Honor recipient MAJ Alfred Rascon found a unique way to express the idea that all service members are part of one big family.

Freedom Team Salute, Jun 8. Soldiers have the opportunity to recognize the support they receive from families and employers.

A New Badge of Courage, Sep 4. The Combat Action Badge recognizes Soldiers from all parts of the Army who bravely face enemy action.

Earning the EFMB, Sep 36. Many try for the Expert Field Medical Badge, but very few can make the grade.

Environment

Recycling Old Buildings, Apr 30. What’s the best way to ensure the proper recycling of the materials in old buildings on Army posts? Make demolishing them profitable.

Focus on People

New Limbs, New Hope, Feb 48.

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Health and Fitness

Invisible Wounds, May 34. Post-traumatic stress disorder is a very real threat to Soldiers.

Tips for Staying Fit, May 45. Eating right is the first step to good health for both Soldiers and civilians.

Vets Compete, Oct 32. The National Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis draw veterans from all over.

History and Tradition

Tracing Army Green, Feb 24. The history and impact of the long-serving Army green uniform.

The Army’s Museum, Feb 37. A completed design moves the National Army Museum closer to reality.

A Trove of History’s Treasures, Apr 29. A state-of-the-art archival facility at the U.S. Army Military History Institute is a repository for millions of the Army’s most important documents.

Honoring the “Big Red One,” May 46. The history and contributions of the 1st Infantry Division live on in a private Illinois museum.

Resolution of the Continental Congress, Jun 34. In honor of the Army’s 230th birthday, we offer a look at the words that started it all.

Capturing History on Canvas, Jun 20. Army artist SFC Elzie Golden depicts the lives and missions of Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Documenting the 10th, Jun 36. The 10th Mountain Division’s World War II battles in Italy are remembered in a new film.

Father and Son, Citizen Warriors, Jul 42. Theodore Roosevelt and his son, Theodore Jr., both received the

Medal of Honor.

Honoring Army Women, Aug 28. The only museum in the world dedicated solely to honoring the role women have played in the Army is located at Fort Lee, Va.

A Promise Kept, Nov 4. The nation bestows the Medal of Honor upon former CPL Tibor Rubin for his actions during the Korean War.

A Soldier’s Soldier, Nov 8. SGT Dave Sokorai embodies the Army Values.

Vets Supporting Vets, Nov 23. Veterans of the 18th Infantry — from World War II, Vietnam and Iraq — gather to share memories and support.

To the Sea: Lewis and Clark Reach the Pacific, Nov 24. How the Corps of Discovery reached the sea and founded Fort Clatsop.

Iraq and Afghanistan

Sanchez on Iraq, Feb 8. LTG Ricardo S. Sanchez shares his thoughts about the war and about what the Army has accomplished since March 2003.

Operation “I CAN,” Feb 22. This program is aiding children throughout Iraq.

COE: Rebuilding Iraq, Feb 26. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working around the clock with its military counterparts to rebuild Iraq’s infrastructure.

Afghanistan: From War to Hope, Mar 14. While Afghanistan is still rocked by occasional violence, democracy is on the march.

With the Hell Hounds, Apr 16. The Soldiers of the Army Reserve’s 810th MP Company are among those who escort U.S. supply convoys into Iraq.

New Beginnings in Iraq, Apr 18. Cooperation between civil-affairs Soldiers and Iraqis is helping to rebuild the infrastructure in Iraq.

Iraq Overview, May 8. Soldiers are changing the lives of Iraqis for the better, even as the war continues.

A Better Place for Detainees, May 14. Soldiers are changing the lives of Iraqis for the better.

Firing the Big Guns, May 18. Battery F of the 7th Field Artillery stands ready to rain steel on the enemy at a moment’s notice.

Morning Raid in Afghanistan, Jun 18. American and Afghan Soldiers raid the compound of a suspected arms dealer, netting weapons, explosives, intelligence and insurgents.

Keeping ‘Em Flying, Jun 42. In Iraq, expert maintainers ensure that Army aircraft are always ready to fly.

Iraq’s Rough Riders, Jul 8. An Army-Marine unit is helping make Iraq’s roads safer for coalition convoys.

A Friendly Patrol, Jul 12. Civil-affairs Soldiers interact with Iraqis of all backgrounds and political beliefs as they patrol Baghdad.

More Than School Supplies, Sep 30. Soldiers and community groups back home join forces to provide books and other vital supplies for Iraqi

school children.

Hope Through Learning, Sep 32. The Corps of Engineers, Texas National Guard Soldiers and the Iraqi Ministry of Education are bringing new schools to Iraqi students.

Defenders of Baghdad, Oct 45. Ceremonies in Baghdad mark the activation of the U.S.-trained 5th Brigade of Iraq’s 6th Division.

Fighting Afghanistan’s Taliban, Oct 46. Coalition forces are using innovative tactics to combat the Taliban in the Shah Wali Kot district.

Commo-Link Protectors, Nov 38. Texas Guard Soldiers man and protect radio-replay points across Iraq.

Legal Forum

The Former Spouses’ Protection Act, Feb 40.

The New Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, Mar 44.

Will Your Family Inherit Problems?, Apr 36.

Changes to the Bankruptcy Law, Oct 38.

Missions

Responding to the Tsunami Disaster, Mar 24. The military rushed to the aid of those nations stricken by the worst tsunami in recorded history.

In the Nation’s Defense, Mar 30. Joint Task Force-North has assumed a homeland-security mission.

Pot War in the Forest, Mar 35. Units from all the services support local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies in their battle against drug producers and smugglers.

A Tradition of Airborne Excellence, Apr 24. The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate ensures that airborne Soldiers have the equipment they need to succeed.

Leave No Soldier Behind, Apr 40. The Army Personnel Recovery Office develops the procedures Soldiers need to perform immediate battlefield-rescue operations.

Supplying the Force, Jun 10. Where the Army goes, quartermaster Soldiers follow.

Ready, Shoot, Document, Jul 24. Combat camera Soldiers of the 55th Signal Company document the Army’s activities worldwide.

New Horizons in El Salvador, Jul 40. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen recently joined forces in a remarkable humanitarian-aid mission.

Mission: Horn of Africa, Aug 8. Soldiers join Marines and Sailors to secure eastern Africa against terrorism.

Living at Camp Lemonier, Aug 18. A former French Foreign Legion camp in the African nation of Djibouti is home to the U.S. military personnel who make up the CJTF-HOA.

New Hope for Ethiopians, Aug 22. While CJTF-HOA civil-affairs Soldiers help improve life for people throughout the Horn of Africa.

Soldiers on the Somali Border, Aug 24. From Camp Hurso, Ethiopia, Soldiers help prevent terrorists from crossing Somalia's porous border.

Building Security in Georgia, Aug 32. With the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Georgia is securing its borders against illegal drugs and other contraband.

Doin' Time in Leavenworth, Aug 38. We take an exclusive, inside look at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks.

The Army Responds to Hurricane Katrina, Oct 5. Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, as well as Army civilians, answered the call when Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast.

The Army in the Pacific, Oct 12. In this exclusive interview, U.S. Army Pacific, commander LTG John M. Brown III talks about USARPAC's missions and capabilities.

Explosions in Paradise, Oct 18. A massive cleanup effort is clearing forgotten World War II ordnance from Hawaii's Big Island.

Training CSMs in Colombia, Oct 24. U.S. Army, South, is helping the Colombian army transform its senior enlisted ranks.

USARSO's Continuing Mission, Oct 28. U.S. Army, South, is undertaking vital missions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

AMC: Better Support for Soldiers, Nov 32. How the Army Materiel Command provides the tools Soldiers need.

The Corps Hurricane Response, Nov 38. The Army Corps of Engineers plays a key role in rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina.

Bringing in the LAVs, Nov 42. National Guard light armored vehicles help rescue Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Moving an Army at War Deployment Preparation, Feb 30. The CONUS Replacement Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, prepares Soldiers, government civilians and contractors for duty in Southwest Asia.

Movement Masters, Apr 8. In war, nothing happens until something moves. And the movement that supplies the Army in Iraq is managed by the 7th Transportation Group.

National Guard and Reserve State of the Guard, Jul 20. LTG Steven H. Blum reflects on the missions and accomplishments of National Guard members.

Helmets to Hardhats, Jul 34. A new program helps put departing Soldiers in the running for the nation's best construction jobs.

Becoming MPs, Jul 36. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are stepping up to fill the Army's need for more MPs.

Recruiting and Retention Army Game Update, Feb 44.

Here's a look at the changes being made to one of the nation's most popular computer games.

Blue to Green, Mar 20. The Warrior Transition Course is helping ensure that former Sailors, Marines and Airmen become the best Soldiers they can be.

Showcasing the Army, Jun 26. Car races, rodeos and a host of other public events are helping the Army's recruiting efforts.

Schools and Training Bio-Warfare Detectives, May 42. At Fort Detrick, Md., Soldiers learn to operate deployable bio-warfare laboratories.

Training "Bandits" for Combat, Jun 28. Using lessons learned in Iraq, tankers of the 1st Armored Division are brushing up on their dismounted-combat skills.

Engage and Destroy, Jul 28. U.S. and Israeli air defenders pooled their talents during exercise Juniper Cobra '05.

Training Today's Soldiers at ... NTC, Sep 6. The National Training Center recreates Iraq and Afghanistan to help train Soldiers headed "downrange."

Training Today's Soldiers at ... JRTC, Sep 14. Hostile locals and complex politics are all part of the scenario at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

Training Today's Soldiers at ... CMTC, Sep 18. Training is hyper-realistic at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

Mastering Mine Protection, Oct 42. Alabama Guard Soldiers are operating a mine-warfare school in Iraq.

ROMEX 2005, Nov 18. Texas Guard Soldiers join Romanian troops for an in-country exercise.

Air Assault in Germany, Nov 28. Soldiers attend air-assault school.

Soldier Issues Safe Driver, Safe Soldier, May 20. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has teamed with industry to help make Soldiers better drivers.

Reporting Sexual Assault, Aug 37. A new policy for confidential, restricted reporting protects victims not willing to face the criminal-investigation process.

Read to Stay Close, Sep 28. A new program allows deployed service members to read to their children – via videotape.

Technology Blimp RAID, Feb 34. One of aviation's older technologies is being updated to provide state-of-the-art military surveillance capabilities.

Science on the Battlefield, Apr 44. This year's Army Science Conference introduced new devices and equipment that are already changing the way Soldiers do business.

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